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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

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COUNTRY Poland/USSR

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Ship Construction in Gdynia for the Volga-Don Canal

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REFERENCES

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1. Twenty-five ships are being constructed in the Gdynia Shipyard for use on the Volga-Don Canal.¹ Up to 22 January 1954, six of these vessels had been completed and sent to Russia. They were picked up by Soviet crews and usually left the dock by night. Five more were completed and were awaiting trials before being handed over to Soviet crews; and a further six had been launched but were awaiting engines² and various other materials before the fitting-out could be completed. The other eight ships are still under construction and have not yet been launched.

2. These vessels are very similar in appearance to the DUNAJEC and the NYSA; they have a shallow draft; are approximately 70 - 80 meters long with two cargo hatches, and two masts with derricks. The engine room and funnel are situated aft, the dead weight tonnage is circa 1,500 tons. The bows are rounded near the water line and probably strengthened for use against ice.

The raw materials used in the construction of these vessels, excepting engines and certain specialized equipment, are of Polish origin.

3. All twenty-five vessels are to be completed by June 1954. After that date, the Gdynia Shipyard is to be taken over by the Polish Navy for the construction of naval vessels.

4. Until the beginning of January 1954, three shifts a day were working on the construction of these twenty-five ships but now only two shifts are in operation. The reason for this is not known, but it is believed to be due to a shortage of raw materials.

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